

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to make editorial changes therein.

Claims 1-14 were previously pending in the application. New claim 15 is added. Therefore, claims 1-15 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over KLEYLEIN 4,828,261 in view of MURAILLE French Patent 2,666,994. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 6 are amended and recite that the bulgings are of equal length.

By way of example, as seen in Figures 2 and 4 of the present application, bulgings 5 and 7 are of equal length.

In contrast, column 3, lines 60-67 of KLEYLEIN disclose that the length of raised portion 7 (indicated in the Official Action as a first bulging) is approximately 6-7 cm long while the distance from the location 9c of the depression 9 to the adjacent end of the handle 4 (noted in the Official Action as a second bulging) is about 3-4 cm. KLEYLEIN does not disclose first and second bulgings that are of equal length. MURAILLE discloses a

substantially smooth grip and does not overcome the shortcomings of KLEYLEIN.

Moreover, claim 6 is further amended to recite that the knob directly adjoins the grip portion.

MURAILLE is offered for the disclosure of a knob. However, the knob of MURAILLE does not directly adjoin the grip portion. Rather, as seen in Figure 3 of MURAILLE, there is an intermediate portion that is between the grip portion and the knob.

The above-noted features are missing from each of the references, are absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 5 and 10 were rejected as unpatentable over KLEYLEIN and MURAILLE and further in view of DOUBT 4,696,842. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

DOUBT is only cited for disclosure with respect to the features of claims 5 and 10. DOUBT does not overcome the shortcomings of KLEYLEIN and MURAILLE with respect to claims 1 and 6. Since claims 5 and 10 depend from claims 1 and 6 and further define the invention, claims 5 and 10 are believed to define over the proposed combination of references at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

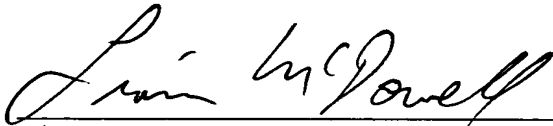
New claim 15 is added. Support for new claim 15 can be found in Figures 2 and 4.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

LM/lk